Englands Remonſtrance TO THEIR KING.

Wherein is declared the humble Deſires of his Majeſties loyall and faithfull Subjects within the Kingdom of England,

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie now reſident in the Iſle of Wight.

Containing the very ſenſe of all the true-hearted of the Kingdom concerning his Majeſties Royall Perſon.

But becauſe the way to the Kings eare is ſtopt, is now ſent to London, and publiſhed for generall ſatisfaction of the whole Kingdom.

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To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

The humble Remonſtrance of your diſtreſſed, and almoſt deſtroyed Subjects of your Kingdom of ENGLAND.

Dread Soveraign,

ITs a double grief to our ſoules, that we ſhould be conſtrained to beg for our lives at your hands, who are bound by the Law of God and nature, and by your Oath, to preſerve them; and that we ſhould be forced to intreat you to ſpare our eſtates, liberties, and blood, whoſe honour and ſtrength depends ſo much upon theſe our enjoyments: But extremity prevaileth, and drives us to you, and caſteth us here proſtrate at the feet of of your Majeſtie: and let not your Majeſty be offended if we ſpeak more plainly then uſually becommeth us, for neceſſitie hath no law: it is for our lives and more, and therefore blame us not to ſpeak; our friends, our wives, our children, our wants, our dangers, our country, our blood, do all pierce our ears and hearts with their daily and doleſull cries, Oh that our requeſts could finde as quick acceſſe to yours.

Surely, it is impoſſible your Majeſtie ſhould be ignorant of the doleſull conditions your two Kingdoms are in; Do you not know that our houſes have been plundered, and the fruit of our long labours taken from us; that men who have heretofore relieved hundreds of the poor, have not left them a bed to lie on, food to ſuſtaine them, or a houſe to put their heads in?

And the poore they were wont to relieve, are forced to become ſouldiers, that they may rob us by authority.

Know you not how many thouſand diſtreſſed ſoules crie to God day and night in their anguiſh and miſery, while they ſee you the Father of their Countrey, having no compaſſion on them? Oh!

where is now your Majesties ancient clemency? You were wont if we lost our estates by Pyrats, or but a house by fire, *to grant your gracious Letters Patents for our relieſe*; but now the Souldiery robb us of all, and have burnt our houses to the ground, and this not onely for obtaining victory in heat of fight, but upon deliberation afterwards.

Know you not how our blood is spilt, and the dead bodies of your Subjects, yea many of your Nobles scattered as dung on the face of the Earth? Have not your eyes seene it, and your ears heard the groans of the wounded, gaspe for life? Is all this nothing in your eyes? To whom should your people go but to your Majesty in this our distresse? We have tryed all other known means, and professe in the sight of God, we know none but your Majestie, under God, that can deliver us, without more bloud and desolation; and the world knows it is in your hands: you may do it if you will, and do it easily, and doe it with increase of your honour, safetie and happinesse. What if it were to part with something of your right, yet should not your Majestie do it to save the life of your people, from whom, and for whose good you first received it?

Dread Soveraign, we beseech you consider, what hath your *Parliament* and *People* done, that deserves all this from you? Is it because your *Parliam.* relieved us from oppressing Courts, and illegal taxations? was it not with your own consent? and is it not your glory to be a King of a rich and free people? Is it because they prosecute Delinquents? Why to what end are your Courts of Justice else? and are not they your chiefest Court? And can those be friends to you, and worth the defending, that are enemies to your Kingdoms? For your Forts and Navy, are they not yours for your Kingdoms good? and is not your *Parliament* the Kingdom Representative? We know your Majestie cannot mannage them in your own person, but by your Ministers, and those chosen by Councell, and can you or the Kingdom possibly judge any more able, impartiall, and faithfull to advise you in this, than your *Parliament*? They medled not with it, till absolute necessitie constrained; till they saw *Ireland* in rebellion, the Rebels threatning *England*, the same spirits as malignant and active at home, and their own lives and the Kingdom in present apparent jeopardy, and your Majesties consent to their Bill denyed.

We

We cannot poſſibly conceive what your Parliament can do now to remedy any of theſe miſeries; they humbly ſeek your conſent in vain; the Offenders Legally proceeded againſt, are defended from them, yea, thoſe that your Majeſty hath proclaimed ſuch; that is denyed them which is yeelded to every the loweſt Court of Juſtice, they deſire nothing more then your preſence and concurrence; and we know if humble Petitions, or loyall affections would procure it, there would not have been ſo long a diſtance. Neither is there any viſible means left, but either give up our ſtates, Liberties, and Religion to the diſpoſe of Your too long tryed ſecret Councell, and make your Majeſties meer Will the onely Law, and ſo betray their Countrey, and the Truſt commited to them; (which God forbid) or elſe defend us by the ſword.

And for us your people, what have we done that we are made a common ſpoil? Would your Majeſtie deſire us perfidiouſly to betray them whom we have truſted; and deſert them who have been ſo faithfull to us? and kill them whom we have choſen to ſave us? and deſtroy thoſe who are our ſelves repreſentatively? Then ſhould we be the diſgrace of the *Engliſh* Nation, the reproach of our poſteritie, the very ſhame of nature, and ſhould preſently expect ſome ſtrange judgement of God, according to the strangeneſſe of our Offence. Its true, we were forced to take *Antidotum contra Cæſarem*, or rather to ſave our Thoats from the violence of deſperate perſons about you; But we beſeech you, call not this bearing Arms againſt you, it may be againſt your Will; but if heretofore your followers were more reſpective of your Royall Authoritie eſtabliſhed by Law, more truly tender of your Perſon than we, then let not God proſper our proceedings, but cauſe us to fal before them, and give us up into their hands.

We were fallen upon by the cruell, and becauſe we would not die quietly and without reſiſtance, we are accuſed as Traitors, and Enemies to your Majeſtie.

We beſeech your Majeſtie conſider, in the preſence of God, if your own Father and King had run upon you with his drawn ſword, whether would you have ſuffered death without reſiſtance, or have taken the ſword *pro tempore* out of his hand; and yet neither be averſe to his honour and Perſon, or his proceedings upon?

Doth not nature teach us the preſervation [illegible] not the eye wink without deliberation? and the ſm[illegible] turne back if you tread on it? And beſide nature, we h[illegible] preſidents in ſacred Writt, for even more then defenſive [illegible] of Tranſcendent Monarchy. 1 *Sam.* 14.44,45.

But if all this were nothing, yet we know your Majeſtie [illegal]ſed an Act for the continuance of this Parliament: and ſure [illegible] Act muſt needs mean a Parliament with its power and authoritie, and not the meer name and [illegible]kaſſe of a Parliament; Its not onely that they ſhall ſtay together in *London*, and do nothing, or no more than another Court; but that they continue your chiefe Councell, your chief Court, and have ſole Legiſlative power, which are your Parliaments peculiar properties.

And if your Majeſtie hath enacted the continuance of a reall Parliament in its power, who ſeeth not that you have thereby joyned with them your Royall Authority, though not your Perſon? Doth not your Majeſtie in your Expreſſes oft mention your ſelf a part of the Parliament? and that the Head without which the Bodie cannot live? and is the Parliament valid without your authoritie?

Therefore if your Majeſtie hath formerly withdrawn from them your Royall Authoritie, then you have broke your own Laws; which we dare not judge after ſo many ſolemn Proteſtations to maintaine and rule by the known Laws. Wherefore we hope your Majeſty muſt needs diſcern that we fought not againſt you, but for your knowne eſtabliſht Authority in Parliament.

And we hope your Majeſtie will not deny them to be your entire Parliament; for is the Act recalled whereby they we eſtabliſhed? not, how can they ceaſe to be your Parliament? neither let the fault be laid [illegible] all know the major part hath [illegible] the *minor* part, why did [illegible] think our Religi- [illegible] hat a train Po- [illegible] ſee them [illegible] for- [illegible] the

Wo[illegible] *Sovereign*, if we hardly believe that those who would [illegible] destroyed us, should be most zealous in fighting [illegible] Religion. Blame us, not we beseech you, to fear, wh[illegible] no contradiction appear to Mounsieur *de Chesne* his B[illegible] publickly for many years, not in *Paris* onely, but in *London*, [illegible] at Court, which records your Maj Letter to the Pope, promising to venter Crown, and all, to unite us to *Rome* again.

Dread Sovereign, many Princes have gone astray through strength of temptation, and after have been happy in repenting and returning; oh that the Lord would make it your case, and glorifie his mercy on you and us, in making known to you the thing concerning our peace, and not his justice in hardning you to destruction; that it may never be read in our Chronicle by the Generations to come, that *England* had a Prince who lived and dyed in seeking the desolation of his people, and the Church of God. Your Majestie knoweth, there is a King and a Judge above you, before whom you must very shortly stand and give account of your Government. We desire you in the presence of that God, to think, and think seriously, and think again how sad it will be, to have all this blood charged on your soul. Can your Maj. think of this when you are a dying? can those Councellours that have set you on, then bring you as safely off? Your Maj. may despise what we say, and judge us your enemies because we tell you the truth, and speak as dying men in the sorrow of our souls; but you cannot so put by Divine Justice, or quiet conscience at the last: as true as the Lord liveth, your Maj will one day know, that Blasphemers and Flatterers are not your friends; but plain dealers, who do assure you, the wayes you have taken, tend to the utter ruine and destruction of your Kingdome. And can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong in the day the Lord will reckon with you for his people committed to your charge? O think of the low condition your Majesty is now in, how your friends have left and forsaken you, and instead of commanding three Kingdoms, confined to a petty Island. Suppose you now heard the blood of your people already spilt, crying in your ears, and saw the many thousands yet living a life worse than death, living in their sorrows at your feet crying for pity, help, O King help, or we lose our liberties, our lives and Religion; help, that your Self and Royall Posterity be not

not Princes of an impoverished [illegible] Nation: he[illegible] would have God help you [illegible] death and ju[illegible] when your Self shall crie for help and [illegible] that de[illegible] come not some other way, while you and [illegible] Fathers hou[illegible] destroyed. The Lord God of our hopes, who hath for our sin[illegible] justly afflicted us in You, give your Majestie a discerning eye, a holy and tender heart, to yeeld to the Desires of your distressed Subjects, *To return to and concurre with your Parliament*, that God and Man may forget your mistakings, and You may be the blessed'st Prince that ever [illegible]gned in our Land, the terrour of your reall enemies, the joy of your people, and the glory of Posterity: Such shall be the daily and hearty [illegible]yers of

Your Majesties loyall (how ever esteemed) subjects, &c.

Postscript.

GOod friend, we would have you know this Remonstrance was intended onely for his Majesties view, but because plain dealing is seldom well taken, and his Majesty so guarded from the requests of his Subjects, we are therefore forced to submit it to your common view, and to turn it out, in hope his Majestie may light of one Copy, and seriously read it, and lay to heart the [illegible]sse of the miserable: if you censure it as the work of some few discontented persons, Know you it is the sense of the North and North-West of England, and if you will promise us freedom and hopes of success, wee ll soon return it you with the hands of 1000000. If you condemn us for speaking too plainly, know, that [illegible] men forget good [illegible] and dying men [illegible] not complements; We [illegible] in the case of the [illegible] If we [illegible] still wee perish; therefore we will move in the way of hope, and goe in to the King, though it be not according to Law, and if we perish we perish. Yet know we will come farre short of the plainnesse of better [illegible] and times, 2 Sam. 12.7. 1 Kings 18.18. &c. &c. &c.

[illegible]